

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, OCTOBER 12, 1974

FOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

1. MORNING WIRE REPORTS: ALL WIRES COVER HAK'S ARRIVAL IN AMMAN, PETRA TOUR AND ONWARD TRAVEL TO AQABA. AP SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES, HUSSEIN WANTS TO REITERATE THAT JORDAN WILL NOT TAKE PART IN ANY ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS UNLESS MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL IS FIRST WORKED OUT. ACCORDING SCHWEID, KISSINGER SAID THAT HUSSEIN'S VIEWS WOULD HAVE TO BE "TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS." SCHWEID ALSO REPORTS THAT U.S. OFFICIALS SAID ON PLANE THAT TALKS WITH ASSAD DID NOT CENTER ON PROSPECTS FOR RESUMING PEACE TALKS IN GENEVA. SOURCES STATED THAT ASSAD COMPLAINED TO HAK ON CONSTRUCTION OF ISRAELI ANTI-TANK DITCH ALONG DEMILITARIZED ZONE. UPI REPORTS THAT U.S. OFFICIALS SAID ANY NEW EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PEACE MOMENTUM IN ME WERE UNLIKELY UNTIL AFTER ARAB SUMMIT. ACCORDING OFFICIALS, THIS MEETING COULD PRODUCE A

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MORE DEFINITE ARAB POLICY AND POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO JORDAN-

IAN-PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. REUTER, REPORTING EXTENSIVELY EX-AMMAN, ALSO LEADS THAT KISSINGER IS AWARE NO PROGRESS IS LIKELY IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND HUSSEIN HAS PUT ON FREEZE UNTIL AFTER ARAB SUMMIT. ON SYRIA, NELSON SAID THAT KISSINGER FOUND TALKS WITH SYRIANS CONSTRUCTIVE, THOUGH HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS SAID PROGRESS ON SYRIAN FRONT FAR LESS LIKELY THAN IN OTHER AREAS. WHILE NOTING, ACCORDING TO VETERAN TRAVELERS, THAT U.S. OFFICIALS MORE RETICENT ON THIS TRIP THAN IN THE PAST, NELSON SEES GENERAL PICTURE AS (1) HAK IS REPORTEDLY OPTIMISTIC FOR SECOND-STAGE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATION, (2) HAK DOES NOT APPEAR ALARMED BY BREZHNEV'S RENEWED INSISTENCE ON GENEVA MEETING AND (3) U.S. RELATIONS WITH SYRIA APPEAR TO BE IMPROVING. AP AND REUTER GIVE FULL COVERAGE TO PETRA VISIT, ESPECIALLY SECRETARY DONNING ARAB HEADDRESS. NELSON THINKS THIS PHOTOGRAPH COULD WELL EMBARRASS HAK IN A SENSITIVE ISRAEL.

2. KALB -- CBS RADIO: "AFTER A MORNING OF SIGHTSEEING IN THE SPECTACULAR PRE-ROMAN CITY OF PETRA . . . KISSINGER BEGAN A ROUND OF TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN IN A WHITE SANDSTONE PALACE FRONTING ON THE GULF OF AQABA. THE SECRETARY KNOWS HUSSEIN'S POSITION VERY WELL. JORDAN WANTS THE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN MOROCCO LATER THIS MONTH, TO AGREE THAT THE KING HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATING THE FATE OF THE WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WITH ISRAEL, NOT THE PLO. IF THE SUMMIT RULES, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY THE PLO HAS SUCH RESPONSIBILITY, THEN HUSSEIN HAS THREATENED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND GO HIS OWN WAY. THAT COULD HAVE A SHATTERING IMPACT ON KISSINGER'S EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE PEACE IN THIS AREA. LATER TODAY THE SECRETARY FLIES ON TO ISRAEL FOR WHAT IS OFFICIALLY BILLED AS A CRITICAL SET OF TALKS."

3. NEW YORK TIMES, PAGE 9: GWERTZMAN HAS FOUR COLUMNS ON HAK'S DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES WITH SHORT COMPANION PIECE ON BULLET INCIDENT. GWERTZMAN SAYS THAT OVER NEXT FEW DAYS HAK WANTS TO SECURE CONSENSUS OF START OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, WITH ISRAELI-JORDANIAN DISCUSSIONS COMING EITHER SIMULTANEOUSLY OR SOON THEREAFTER. HAK UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTEDLY BELIEVES HE HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN HIS TALKS WITH SADAT, BUT GWERTZMAN NOTES THAT TRIP HAS RUN INTO SHARP POLITICAL CONTROVERSY IN ARAB WORLD. RE SYRIA, GWERTZMAN SAYS IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHAT DEGREE OF SUPPORT, IF ANY, THE HARD-LINE SYRIANS TOOK. BECAUSE OF DELICATE SITUATION, HAK AND TOP AIDES HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL IN THEIR REMARKS; THEY ARE TRYING TO STEER CLEAR OF ANY POSSIBLE CONFLICT THAT MAY ERUPT AT RABAT LATER THIS

MONTH. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT ANY PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT COULD PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. ON JORDAN, GWERTZMAN SAYS THAT KISSINGER PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY HAS ENDORSED THE VIEW THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK SHOULD BE SETTLED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ISRAELI-JORDANIAN TALKS.

4. WASHINGTON POST: BERGER HAS PAGE 1 ABOVE-FOLD PIECE ON BULLET INCIDENT. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES ARE COVERED SEPARATELY IN THREE COLUMN ARTICLE, PAGE 18, WITH PIX OF HAK VIEWING PAPER BOAT AT CAIRO MUSEUM. BERGER SAYS HAK IS CONTINUING HIS EFFORTS TO SET THE PIECES OF HIS NEGOTIATING STRATEGY FIRMLY ENOUGH IN PLACE SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE SCUTTLED BY FORTHCOMING ARAB SUMMIT. IN THIS PROCESS, A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAID THAT EVERYONE IS WALKING A TIGHTROPE. REFERRING TO BREZHNEV'S COMMENTS WHICH APPEAR TO BE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO HAK'S TRIP, BERGER SAYS THAT A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT IT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD SUPPORT A MISSION IN WHICH THEY ARE NOT PARTICIPATING. WITH RESPECT TO TIMING, REPORTERS ON THE KISSINGER PLANE WERE TOLD THAT HE THINKS IT MAY TAKE A FEW MORE WEEKS -- UNTIL AFTER THE SUMMIT -- FOR THE NEGOTIATING PATTERN TO CRYSTALLIZE. THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, ACCORDING BERGER, IS THE PALESTINIANS. U.S. OFFICIALS WOULD NOT SAY WHETHER SADAT OR ASSAD HAD AGREED TO FORMULA THAT WOULD SATISFY HUSSEIN IN THIS REGARD, THOUGH THERE ARE INDICATIONS THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR ONE. THERE IS CONCERN THAT FORTHCOMING UN DEBATE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE COULD EXACERBATE TENSIONS.

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